

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
parishoffice@sgg.org • www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org
TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor • Rev. Anthony Cekada
Rev. Charles McGuire • Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna



November 22, 2020 LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ST. CECILIA, VM



¶ LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM today. Vespers are at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction.

¶ THIS WEEK...

Is a short one, what with Thanksgiving. **Tomorrow** we close the Octave and Novena of St. Gertrude. St. John of the Cross comes **Tuesday**. **Wednesday** is the patroness of philosophers and young ladies looking for suitable husbands, St. Catherine. Thanksgiving is **Thursday**. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and meat come **Friday**. The simply splendid Gospel of St. Andrew's Vigil is anticipated on **Saturday**. Light your Advent wreath that night.

¶ THANKSGIVING

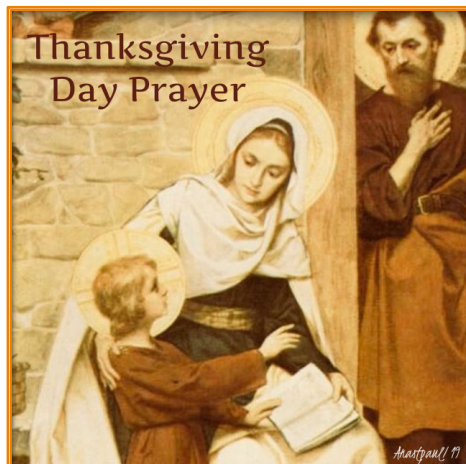
Join us for special holiday Masses, with prayers of thanksgiving, on Thursday, Nov-
THANKSGIVING
ember 26, at 7:00, 8:00 (with music) and 9:00 AM. Holy Mass is the best way to give thanks! Let's joyfully and thankfully stress the religious character of this holiday. The abstinence is traditionally dispensed the Friday after Thanksgiving and meat may be taken. Happy Thanksgiving!



Lumen Christi

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament during the next fortnight for the following intention:

Special Intentions (Chad McGinnis)



We thank Thee, Holy Father, for the gift of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother Mary and good St. Joseph, head of the Holy Family and our protector and father still, in times good and ill. Protect and preserve our families, our Church and our beloved country, and make us to be ever thankful. Amen.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Mary McGuire, Jesse Stewart, Priscilla Nies, Harry Karian, Jan Curran, Nancy Seyfried, Theresa Couch, Emily Capetillo, and the repose of the soul of †Fred Petrowski.

Collection Report

Sunday, November 15th.....\$4,859.00

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT I

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the Advent Season, the beginning of a new liturgical year. **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath** will take place at **7:25 AM**, and the **Advent Procession and Blessing of the Advent Wreath** will take place at **8:55 AM**. Sunday Classes will be at **10:50 AM**. Advent Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** First Sunday of Advent. Second collect of St. Saturninus, third of Our Lady. Trinity Preface.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(Recite on Saturday evening, November 28)

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.



Let us pray. O God, by Whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Let us pray. Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord, and come, so that we may escape through Thy protection and be saved by Thy help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins. Who livest and reignest forever and ever.

R. Amen.

"The less people know about what is really going on, the easier it is to wield power and authority." – Charles, Prince of Wales

GRATITUDE OVER GRUMBLING

If I keep my eyes open and my spirit alert, I will live in continual thanksgiving. I am overwhelmed by the memory of so many graces: my mother's womb, the milk with which she nourished me, my father's labor and sweat, the knowledge and formation received from teachers, the devotion of priests whose hands blessed, pardoned, gave the Body of Christ, and imparted the anointing of the sick to my body.

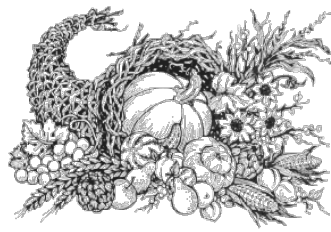
Thank You, Lord, for having chosen me to be Your child. Thank You for having given me Mary for my Mother. Thank You for the mission I received from You in the Church. Thank You for having revealed Your mysteries to me. Thank You for so many brothers and sisters who sustain me.

Thank You for the people who place obstacles on my path and cause me trouble; they help me to become holy. Thank You for my birth as a Vietnamese. Thank You for allowing me to live in this particular time in history. Thank You for giving me a share in Your bitter chalice.

I should sing Your praise my whole life long for just one of these gifts. How much more praise I should give You for the innumerable graces, which I alone know, and for all the graces I am not aware of or do not remember. I will need an eternity to thank You unceasingly. How can I repay You, Lord, for filling my life with so many good things?

- Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan

Nguyen Van Thuan (+2002) was imprisoned by the Vietnamese government for thirteen years.



OUR AMERICAN THANKSGIVING

“National thanksgiving! It is a noble idea on the part of your people—choosing the day for prayer. Men who lack prayer lack one of the essentials of life. Your country must indeed be blessed by Almighty God.

“It is consoling to see the heads of nations fixing days for the people to pray to and thank God for blessings received. Nations doing this cannot but prosper materially and spiritually. I am with you, with your people, on the day of Thanksgiving. We are praying together.” – *Pope Pius XI, 1022*

Pope Pius XII was also a fan of the American holiday. Addressing a group of visiting U.S. Congressmen on Thanksgiving Day 1949, the Pope said: “Our heart is touched and comforted by this recurring evidence—and would that it were universal—of one of the very first charges linked to the mission of responsible statesmen. It is truly just and right everywhere to give thanks to God for the blessings of life, liberty, and abundance.”



Masses sent to the Missions:

2x Poor Souls (JCS)

Poor Souls (Bill & Terri Young)

Madalyn Young – Happy Baptism

(Bill & Terri Young)

For my mother Chen Shiv Jen, happy death soon (H.Y.)

David Tseng, health & safety, return to traditional Mass (H.Y.)

THANKS

My God, I thank Thee Who hast made
The Earth so bright;
So full of splendor and of joy,
Beauty and light;
So many glorious things are here,
Noble and right!

I thank Thee, too, that Thou hast made
Joy to abound;
So many good thoughts and deeds
Circling us round,
That in the darkest spot of Earth
Some love is found.

I thank Thee *more* that all our joy
Is touched with pain;
That shadows fall on brightest hours;
That thorns remain;
So that Earth's bliss may be our guide,
And not our claim.

For Thou Who knowest, Lord, how soon
Our weak heart clings,
Hast given us joys, tender and true,
Yet all with wings,
So that we see, gleaming on high,
Diviner things!

I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou hast kept
The best in store;
We have enough, yet not too much
To long for more:
A yearning for a deeper peace,
Not known before.

I thank Thee, Lord, that here our souls,
Though amply blest,
Can never find, although they seek,
A perfect rest—
Nor ever shall, until they lean,
On Jesus' breast!

- Adelaide Anne Procter



The McFathers arrived late Sunday night, back from a great Forty Hours Devotion and parish dinner in Milwaukee. But by 11:25 on Monday morning all was in readiness for our Solemn High Mass to mark the feast of our patroness, St. Gertrude the Great. Afterwards clergy, teachers, students and faithful retired to nicely decorated Helfta Hall for a fine pizza luncheon generously provided by a parishioner, topped off by tasty homemade desserts made by our school choir director. Thank you!

The news on Tuesday was sad not glad, as my longtime and talented cat Puccini, hero of many a story here, died after a short illness, as they say. He will be sorely missed. I had the impression that he knew he had to be going, and did his best to soften the blow. He was unusually affectionate his last few days of health, allowing me to pet him without the customary scratches. He had an excellent appetite for his last meals, and even showed unwonted piety. The cat always objected to the clergy chanting the long Latin grace, but quietly assisted at the end. Puccini then fell very ill, but still managed to hop up on the bed for a final visit. What a cat! He and Caravaggio were a great and colorful addition to our clerical menagerie at St. Gertrude the Great. Farewell.

At some point during the week—it's a blur now—the winds came up and blew down our statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which will have to be seen to. Otherwise, the weather continues mostly sunny and mild these now last days of November.

We had a Requiem Mass and Absolution for Joan Landry on Thursday. She was a dear soul, so long faithful, but ended up being burned and boxed and shipped out without so much as a prayer. I shudder at how we moderns treat our dead, as well as our elderly and sick. Why, it's enough to bring down God's punishment...

I spoke that day with Joan's daughter, Theresa Couch, who would wish to attend if she could, but has severe health problems. Still, she prays, and I know she prays for us. Keep her in your own prayers, as she faces back surgery. I know it is prayer which has protected us thus far during this abominable world reset.

I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving. Your enthusiastic, joyful, traditional participation in this festival with friends and family is your best way to counter the Communist Revolution, this week by just giving thanks to God for all of the blessings vouchsafed to us. Start your day at Mass if you can.

Then comes, not Christmas, but Advent. Family

activity for the weekend: make and light your Advent wreath, and make as well some Advent resolutions for prayer and sacrifice. Develop or maintain your family religious customs. If the days grow dark, you will certainly need to depend upon them. But God will not allow us to be tried beyond that which we are able to bear.

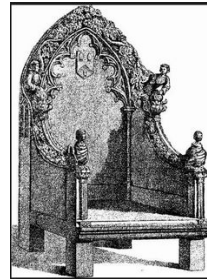
One of our altar boys, Jesse Stewart, was by the other evening to receive the Sacraments. He has been sick for months with three separate and painful afflictions, but continues cheerful and brave. Keep him too in your good prayers. He gives us older ones a good example.

I am thankful for all of you, and your generous prayerful perseverance. God bless you!

– Bishop Dolan



PRAYERS FOR THE INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER DURING A VACANCY OF THE HOLY SEE



Question: For the gaining of many indulgences, prayers according to the intention of the Holy Father are required. What applies to that condition for gaining the indulgences during a vacancy of the Holy See?

Answer: The indulgences can be gained by saying the prayers according to the intention of the Church. The intention for which the prayers are to be said is well known and has been repeatedly specified in Papal documents. It refers to the welfare of the Church, the conversion of sinners and heathens and the return of the separated Christian denominations to the unity of the one faith under one head. By the law of the Church the supreme government of the faithful is in the hands of the Sacred College of Cardinals during the vacancy of the Holy See. It is evident that some provision has to be made for the government of the Church in the interval between the death of a Pope and his successor in office, and the right of any Pope to make such regulation as he sees fit cannot be questioned. While the individual Pope dies, the Church and her authority continue.



"The road is narrow. He who wishes to travel it more easily, must cast off all things and use the cross as his cane. In other words, he must be resolved to suffer willingly for the love of God in all things."

– St. John of the Cross

SERMON REVIEW

The stakes of the coercive scientism...were high, and they have only grown the more as society has become more centralized and technology more pervasive. Scientism abolishes rational discussion, as one's opponent becomes a "science denier," rather than an alternative explanation of the relevant facts that can be logically engaged in pursuit of the truth.

As a result, scientism's pronouncements become infallible in the mind of its adherent. Intolerance of dissenters is justified, since its chosen theories, policies, and philosophies must be preserved as "fact." Any rubric that should inform public health, education, or policy can be scorned, if necessary, as "not following the science," and any rubric that assists the agenda can be protected as part of "the science." Big Tech and social media giants routinely censor or obstruct "misinformation," which concept relies upon scientism's myopic treatment of facts and details that do not conform to its unalterable narrative of reality.

Take, for instance, the strange science of this summer. Massive Trump rallies became reckless "superspreader events" which public health experts condemned and even claimed specific Covid death-rate numbers for. Meanwhile, the BLM protests, riots, and looting were not only declared virus-free, but in fact heralded as positive and necessary public health measures. "Systematic racism poses a greater threat to public health than Covid," we were told over and over.



TO HIM WHO EVER THOUGHT

To him who ever thought with love
of Me

Or ever did for My sake some good
deed

I will appear, looking such charity
And kind compassion, at his life's last
need

That he will out of hand and heartily
Repent he sinned and all his sins be
freed

— Gerard Manley Hopkins

Sister Mary Jeremy noted that Hopkins's poem is based on a passage in the Revelation of St. Gertrude:

Having heard a preacher declare that no person could be saved without the love of God, and that all must at least have so much of it as would lead them to repent and to abstain from sin, the Saint began to think that many, when dying, seemed to repent more from the fear of hell than from the love of God, Our Lord replied: "When I behold anyone in his agony who has thought of Me with pleasure, or who has performed any works deserving of reward, I appear to him at the moment of death with a countenance so full of love and mercy, that he repents from his inmost heart for having ever offended Me, and he is saved by this repentance."

That few readers of this poem have recognized it as a close paraphrase of St. Gertrude's lines is one of many evidences that her influence, though strong, has been, as was her cloistered life, hidden.

A MARTYR FOR THE CRUCIFIX

Restituta Kafka, who took her religious name from a third-century martyr beheaded under the Roman emperor Aurelian, was raised in Vienna. At the age of nineteen she entered a nursing order, the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, and served faithfully for many years in the district hospital in Mödling, near Vienna. Eventually she was put in charge of the operating room.

After the German annexation of Austria in 1938, the Nazis forbade any religious symbols in hospitals or schools. Sr. Restituta, refusing to comply with this order, conspicuously installed crucifixes in every room in a new ward of the hospital. After being denounced to the Gestapo by one of the hospital surgeons, a fanatical Nazi, she was arrested on Ash Wednesday in 1942. Following a year in prison, she was sentenced to death for "aiding and abetting the enemy in the betrayal of the fatherland and for plotting high treason." Hitler's secretary, Martin Bormann, wished to make a special example of her and personally signed her execution decree. Restituta was beheaded on March 30, 1943, and her body was thrown into a mass grave.

"I have lived for Christ; I want to die for Christ."

— Last words of Restituta Kafka





BE STEADFAST AND FIRM in your faith and be on the alert, for in this way you will avoid all the evil snares of the enemy. This is precisely the warning given us by the prince of the apostles, St. Peter: *Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith....* Yes, renew your faith in the truths of Christian doctrine, especially at times of conflict. And renew in a most particular way your faith in the promises of eternal life which our most sweet Jesus makes to those who fight energetically and courageously. You should be encouraged and comforted by the knowledge that we are not alone in our sufferings, for all the followers of the Nazarene scattered throughout the world suffer in the same manner.... Let us remember that the lot of chosen souls is to suffer. God, the author of all grace and of every gift leading to salvation, has decreed that glory will be ours on condition that we endure suffering with a Christian spirit. So let us lift up our hearts full of confidence in God alone. Let us humble ourselves beneath His powerful hand, let us cheerfully accept the trials to which the mercy of the heavenly Father subjects us, so that He may raise us up at the time of His visitation. Let all our concern be to love God and be pleasing to Him, paying no attention to all the rest, in the knowledge that God will always take more care of us than we can say or imagine.

– Padre Pio

IF SORROW COME

If Sorrow come and knock upon thy door,
 Make haste and open to her, though she bring
 A summons asking the most precious thing
 Of all thy treasures; e'en though nevermore
 Life wear the roseate splendor once it wore;
 Though loves be cleft in twain; yea, though she fling
 Black dark about thee all the day, or sting
 Thy heart like scorpions to the very core.

Christ's feet were bated by Sorrow at the feast;
 Sorrow received His blessed features on
 The dolorous way; she followed Him beside
 The moonlit sea; beloved of men the least,
 He loved her best, set her apart as one
 Worthy to walk beside Him till He died.

– P.J. Carroll, C.S.C.



OUR LADY OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Virgin Immaculate, perfect lover of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we ask you to obtain for us the graces we need to become true adorers of our Eucharistic God. Grant us, we beg of you, to know Him better, to love Him more, and to center our lives around the Eucharist, that is, to make our whole life a constant prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and petition to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Amen.

V. Pray for us, O Virgin Immaculate, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

R. That the Eucharistic Kingdom of Jesus Christ may come among us! (*Bl. Peter Julian Eymard*)

Please pray for the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament so that Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration may spread worldwide.

"Most holy Mary, Virgin of virgins, shrine of the most Holy Trinity, joy of the angels, sure refuge of sinners, take pity on our sorrows, mercifully accept our sighs and appease the wrath of your most holy Son. Amen."

– St. John of the Cross

- MON 11/23/20 OCTAVE DAY OF ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT**
 ST. CLEMENT, PM • ST. FELICITY, M
8:00 AM Low Mass Happy Anniversary Anthony & Katia (*Leanne*)
11:25 AM High Mass Joe Brueggemann (*Alex McConnell*)
- TUE 11/24/20 ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, CD**
 ST. CHRYSOGONUS, M
7:00 AM Low Mass My Mother (*T. Bayer*)
11:25 AM High Mass Christine D. Martin (*Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski*)
 ☞ **5:15 PM Low Mass** Intentions of our fellow Catholics (*Kolenich Family*)
- WED 11/25/20 ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VM**
7:00 AM Low Mass †Richie (*M. Sutton*)
8:00 AM Low Mass Bernadette & Paul Wesner – Marriage Blessings (*Levi & Jacinta Giese*)
11:25 AM High Mass †Irene Ulanowski & †Jan Groen (*Colleen Eldracher*)
- THU 11/26/20 THANKSGIVING DAY**
 ST. SYLVESTER, AB • ST. PETER OF ALEXANDRIA, BpM
 ST. LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE, C
7:00 AM Low Mass For our country and its leaders (*Bill & Terri Young*)
8:00 AM Low Mass with Music Thank you Simpson Family (*Angela & Catherine Robbins*)
9:00 AM Low Mass Holy Souls (*Arlinghaus family*)
- FRI 11/27/20 FERIAL DAY • OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL**
8:00 AM Low Mass Karen Simpson – Happy Birthday Nov. 8 (*Tom Simpson*)
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM Low Mass Special Intention – D.A. (*Simpson family*)
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction
- SAT 11/28/20 VIGIL OF ST. ANDREW • ST. CATHERINE LABOURÉ**
7:15 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass Dale Sandberg & his family (*Fr. Lehtoranta*)
8:05 AM Salve & Sermon
8:15 AM High Mass †Grandma Rose, †Katie Bischak & †Sharon Patton (*TRCS*)
9:30 AM Requiem Low Mass †Paul Joseph O'Connor (*JCS*)
- SUN 11/29/20 ADVENT I • ST. SATURNINUS, M**
7:05 AM Rosary
7:25 AM Lighting of the Advent Wreath
7:30 AM Low Mass Daniel Cooley (*Doloris Ritze*)
8:55 AM Procession & Blessing of the Advent Wreath
High Mass †Father Cekada (*Richesson Family*)
 ☞ **10:50 AM Sunday Classes**
11:05 AM Rosary
11:30 AM Low Mass †John & †Wanda Purcell (*C. Lee & Dianne Payne*)
4:45 PM Advent Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

“Silence is God’s first language.” – St. John of the Cross

THANKSGIVING WITH THE SOULS IN PURGATORY



Lord Jesus, from the fires of Purgatory the suffering members of Thy Mystical Body, captive citizens of Thy Kingdom, stretch out their adoring arms. In the Mass they see their great hope. The indulgences that I can gain for them they themselves cannot beg of Thee. Grant them, merciful Lord, what I can merit for them—the reprieve of Thy just sentence and a speedy release from pain to glory. The souls in Purgatory adore Thee in the

greatness of their faith. They are citizens of Thy Kingdom who never again can rebel against Thy rule. They love Thee—but in exile—and they desire Thy presence with a wistfulness that makes them envy alike the saints who see Thee and we who possess Thy Eucharistic presence. Merciful judge of all the world, I unite myself with the souls in Purgatory. I offer my prayers for them, knowing their efficacy. The Mass is my gift for their speedy release. Kneeling before Thee, I ask for their swift entrance into Thy rewarding love.

THE SURRENDER PRAYER

Surrender to Me does not mean to fret, to be upset, or to lose hope, nor does it mean offering to Me a worried prayer asking Me to follow you and change your worry into prayer. It is against this surrender, deeply against it, to worry, to be nervous and to desire to think about the consequences of anything. It is like the confusion that children feel when they ask their mother to see to their needs, and then try to take care of those needs for themselves so that their childlike efforts get in their mother’s way. Surrender means to placidly close the eyes of the soul, to turn away from thoughts of tribulation and to put yourself in My care, so that only I act. Saying, You take care of it.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!
 (10 times)

– From “The Surrender Novena” of Fr. Dolindo

Servers

- SUN 11/29 7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: P. Omlor, C. Richesson MC: J. Lacy
 CROSS: C. Arlinghaus TH: M. Simpson MITRE: S. Richesson
 CROZIER: A. McClorey BOOK: T. Lawrence ACs: Na. McClorey, D. Simpson TORCH: T. & D. England, S. Richesson, A. McClorey, T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus
 11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, N. Kolenich
 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller